

REC'D APR 1 2009



WELLS-OGUNQUIT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 578, 1460 Post Road, Wells, Maine 04090
TEL (207) 646-8331 * FAX (207) 646-0314 * TDD (207) 646-7892
<http://wocsd.org>



EDWARD R. McDONOUGH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

KAREN ROPES
SPECIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

IRA O. WALTZ
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SCOTT J. SMITH
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCE

April 2, 2009

Commissioner Susan Gendron
Maine Department of Education
23 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0023

Dear Commissioner Gendron:

As a result of the March 24, 2009 referendum on a proposed AOS merger with the Acton School Department, the Wells-Ogunquit Community School district is submitting an alternative plan. The April 1, 2009 enrollment in the CSD is 1,432 students. The plan demonstrates savings achieved in system administration, facilities and maintenance, transportations and special education and does not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.

Enclosed please find the following materials:

- Notice of Intent
- Alternative Plan Submittal Sheet and Checklist
- Alternative Plan

I want to thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Edward McDonough in cursive script.

Edward McDonough
Superintendent of Schools

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ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

School Administrative Unit Submitting Alternative Plan:

- Wells-Ogunquit Community School District

Contact Information:

Name: Edward McDonough

Address: 1460 Post Road

P.O. Box 1460

Wells, Maine 04090

Telephone: 207-646-8331

email: emcdonough@wocsd.org

Date Plan Submitted by SAU: April 2, 2009

The intent to submit an alternative plan has been approved by the Commissioner in the approval of the Notice of Intent?

☒ YES

☐ NO

(If NO, please explain.)

Alternative Plan Cover Sheet
(Please attach Alternative Plan as Exhibit A)

Plan Requirements				
Item	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Need Assistance ¹
Plan addresses how the SAU will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that projected expenditures of RSU in fiscal 2008-2009 for the following areas will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.				
system administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
special education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
facilities and maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan addresses how cost savings will be achieved in fiscal 2008-2009 for the above four areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parameters for Plan Development				
Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes at least one publicly supported high school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of teachers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Agreements				
			Yes	No
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? (not required, but encouraged)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on the next page.

Exceptions to 2,500 minimum

Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible: 1,415

Exception	Exception Claimed in Plan	Documentation Provided? (Please attach as Exhibit B)	
		Yes	No
Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demographics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Population Density	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Unique Circumstances	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Assistance Needs –

Please use this section to describe your needs for assistance and from whom you need assistance.

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE PLAN

SAU Submitting: Wells-Ogunquit Community School District
Contact Information: Edward McDonough
Superintendent of Schools
Phone: 207-646-8331
E-mail: emcdonough@wocsd.org

Date Submitted: April 2, 2009

Due Diligence

At the Commissioner's request, in June 2008, the CSD sought to rejoin discussions with Arundel, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport. In September, again at the department's request, the CSD explored a combination with Kittery. In November, it began a planning process in earnest with the town of Acton to form an alternative organizational structure (AOS). The Reorganization Planning Committee (RPC) placed a plan before voters on March 24, 2009 that was defeated in both school units.

Throughout the last two years, the CSD has worked with Arundel, SAD 71, York, Kittery and Acton. Since a referendum on an Acton - CSD AOS has been rejected by our citizens, the CSD has no other option. The CSD has exercised due diligence by allowing voters to make the final determination on reorganization.

Sustainability

The Wells-Ogunquit CSD and its taxpayers have demonstrated consistent and strong support for its schools over the years. We believe the CSD is sustainable and strongly supported by the communities of Wells and Ogunquit as highlighted below:

- Citizens are proud of their schools as evidenced by the \$19 million in local support for the new elementary school and junior high renovations as well as its ongoing support of the CSD's operating budgets.
- The School Committee has been vigilant in seeking to provide the highest quality education program at a cost that taxpayers can afford. The budget increase in FY08 was 2.26%, in FY09 1.25% and the proposed FY10 budget is a 0% increase.
- The CSD's population has remained stable. The April 1, 2009 enrollment is 1,432.
- The economy, population and property valuation of Wells and Ogunquit, and York County as a whole, continues to grow, albeit modestly.

System Administration

<u>FY 08 Actual</u>	<u>FY 09 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY '10 Proposed</u>
\$687,731	\$512,654	\$531,391

Cost Saving Initiatives / Rationale

1. Certain system administration expenditures have now been properly budgeted in accordance with the Department of Education's new chart of accounts
2. In FY 07, the CSD reduced an administrative assistant position from 1 FTE to .75.
3. Competitive bidding of school board legal, property and casualty and worker's compensation insurance outside of the MSMA trust has resulted in savings.
4. The CSD's lease purchase of financial software from ADS – Tyler Technologies ends in FY09.

Facilities & Maintenance

<u>FY 08 Actual</u>	<u>FY 09 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY '10 Proposed</u>
\$1,938,908	\$2,209,944	\$2,003,891

Cost Saving Initiatives / Rationale

1. Significant savings in energy costs for FY10, specifically, a reduction of over \$135,000 in fuel and \$36,285 in electricity.
2. Eliminated the position of Facilities Director and reassigned duties to the Finance Director and Head Custodians at each building.
3. The CSD has invested in energy efficiency. All lighting fixtures at Wells High School have been retrofitted; moreover, the CSD entered into an energy performance contract with Honeywell under 20-A M.R.S.A. Section 15915.
4. Utilizing contracted service providers for a host of services has resulted in lower costs, including, but not limited to: 3rd party contracts for fields and mowing, snow removal, and network administration of our technology infrastructure.

Transportation

<u>FY 08 Actual</u>	<u>FY 09 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY '10 Proposed</u>
\$823,948	\$904,522	\$953,191

Cost Saving Initiatives / Rationale

1. The CSD has four years remaining on its current contract with Student Transportation of America.
2. The CSD has reallocated resources in special education transportation and has realized savings. In FY09 we purchased our own van and driver to facilitate all in-district travel and one out of district run to Acton, Maine.
3. The CSD continues to share transportation runs to Portland Arts and Technology High School with SAD # 71.

Special Education

<u>FY 08 Actual</u>	<u>FY 09 Budgeted</u>	<u>FY '10 Proposed</u>
\$3,019,446	\$3,183,931	\$3,145,537

Cost Savings Initiative / Rationale

1. The proposed FY10 special education budget will decline by \$38,394 due in large measure to a decrease in out-of-district tuition costs.
2. Because of emphasis of early intervention programming the CSD's identified special education population has declined from 255 students two years ago to a projected 223 students in FY 10.
3. As a result of a lower special needs population, in FY '09 the CSD was able to reduce staffing by 1 FTE teacher and 1 FTE Ed Tech. In FY '10, staffing is expected to decline by 1 FTE Ed Tech.

Collaborative Arrangements

The CSD continues to work closely with other units in order to build upon existing collaborative agreements. To date, we share some transportation with SAD # 71 and they undertake all of our printing costs at a substantial savings. Our adult community education directors have had conversations in order to work together with SAD # 71 as well. We have established a strong dual enrollment program with York County Community College in order to sustain our Early College Program at Wells High School. We have joined York County's Best Bid Purchasing Portal to realize savings. Finally, we continue to strongly support and work alongside the Sanford School Committee to realize the innovative Great Works Project for an integrated 9-16 career and technical center.